



National Weather Service Forecast Office Jackson, KY



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Phil Hysell, Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Jackson, KY
(606) 666-5636

SEVERE STORMS PREPAREDNESS MONTH

In a Proclamation signed by Governor Ernie Fletcher, March 2004 has been designated as Severe Storms Preparedness Month across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The National Weather Service offices that serve the state of Kentucky along with the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management and the Kentucky Severe Weather Preparedness Committee have designated this month as a time for special severe weather preparedness.

Nearly 90% of all Presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to nearly 500 deaths per year and almost \$14 Billion in damage across the United States. Just in the State of Kentucky in 2003, seven people died and 53 people were injured due to severe weather. This is why Severe Storms Preparedness is so important.

From March 8th through the 12th, the Jackson National Weather Service Office will issue a series of public information statements focusing on various aspects of severe weather preparedness. All statements will be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio.

The statewide tornado drill will be conducted on Tuesday March 9th. On this day the Jackson National Weather Service Office will issue a test Tornado Warning for the 33 Kentucky Counties in its service area. The warning will be transmitted to all media, schools, hospitals, and Emergency groups. All are encouraged to participate in this drill.

Please take time to mark your calendar for this important statewide drill. Being prepared, knowing the danger signs and knowing where to go during severe weather before it strikes can save you and your family's life.

For more information on severe storms preparedness month, please visit the following web sites: www.crh.noaa.gov/jkl or <http://kyem.dma.state.ky.us>

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